IN THE CLAIMS

This list of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a user to select one of a variable number of items, the method employing a device having a display area and, separately from the display area, a data input means which registers a selection made by the user within a loop-shaped range,

the method including:

displaying within the display area a number of regions, each region corresponding to one of the variable number of items, the regions being arranged along a continuous loop-shaped line equal to the number of items;

dividing defining within the loop-shaped range into a number of selectable sections, the selectable sections corresponding to the selectable regions equal to the number of items, the arrangement of said sections in the loop-shaped range corresponding to the arrangement of said regions of the display area along said loop-shaped line, each section corresponding to a respective region,

whereby the user can select one of said variable number of selectable items by selecting a respective one of said sections.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a user to select one of a variable number of items, the method employing a device having a display area and, separately from the display area, a data input means which registers a selection made by the user within a loop-shaped range,

the method including at least once performing the steps of:

(a)   displaying within the display area a number of regions, each region corresponding to one of the variable number of items ~~a respective item~~,

(b)   defining a variable number ~~plurality~~ of subsets of said regions, the variable number of subsets of said regions being arranged along a continuous loop-shaped line;

(c)   dividing the loop-shaped range into ~~defining within the range~~ a number of selectable sections, the number of selectable sections being equal to the number of subsets, the arrangement of said sections in the loop-shaped range corresponding to the arrangement of the respective subsets of regions of the display area along said loop-shaped line, whereby the user can select one of said subsets by selecting the respective one of said sections;

(d)   optionally, at least one step of:

(i)   defining a variable number ~~plurality~~ of subsets of said selected subset of regions; and

(ii)   dividing ~~defining within~~ the loop-shaped range into a number of selectable sections equal to the variable number of subsets, the arrangement of said selectable sections corresponding to the arrangement of the respective variable number of subsets of regions, whereby the user can select one of said variable number of subsets by selecting the respective one of said variable number of sections; and

(e)   dividing the loop-shaped ~~defining within the~~ range into a number of selectable sections equal to the variable number of items ~~terms~~ in the said selected one of the respective

subsets of regions, the arrangement of said <u>selectable</u> sections corresponding to the arrangement of the respective regions representing the items, whereby the user can select one of said items by selecting the respective one of said sections.

3.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the regions are provided along a path corresponding to the circumferential direction of the range, the path within the display area is independent of the number of regions, and the step of displaying the regions includes partitioning the path into a number of elements corresponding to the number of regions and displaying a region in each path element.

4.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which for each possible number of regions up to a maximum, there is a predefined arrangement of that number of regions.

5.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the regions have respective centres which are not on a straight line.

6.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the range is a range of circumferential locations within a loop-shaped contact sensitive area.

7.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, in which the contact sensitive area encircles the display area.

8.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, in which the data input means has a rest plane, is cantable out of the rest plane, and is sensitive to the direction in which it is canted, said range being a range of directions in which the data input means can be canted, the

user making said selection by contacting the device to cant the data input means in a selected direction.

9.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the sections collectively cover the whole of the contact sensitive area, so that defining the sections is equivalent to partitioning the entire area.

10.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the user can (i) vary the selection of the item, information being displayed in relation to the item corresponding to the present selection, and (ii) by a predetermined action make a definitive selection.

11.   (Original) A method according to claim 10, in which the variation of the selection is made by rotating the data input means.

12.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, which is performed repeatedly, on each occasion selecting form items which are logically related to the item selected in the previous step.

13.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the logical relationships are of any type or types suitable for defining a hyperspace.

14.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the items are data files, sets of data files or portions of data files.

15.   (Original) A method according to claim 14, in which at least one of the data files are stored in a location remote from the device but accessible to the device.

16.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14 in which, upon selecting a data file, the user is presented with at least one information about that data file.

17.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14 in which, upon selecting a data file, the user can open the selected data file.

18.   (Currently Amended) A device for allowing a user to select one of a variable number of items, the device having:

a display area, for displaying a number of regions, each region corresponding to one of the variable number of items, the regions being arranged along a continuous loop-shaped line equal to the number of items;

data input means, separate from said display area, which registers a selection made by the user within a loop-shaped range; and

a processor for (i) dividing defining within the loop-shaped range into a number of selectable sections, the number of selectable sections being equal to the number of selectable regions items, the arrangement of said sections in the loop-shaped range corresponding to the arrangement of said regions of the display area along said loop-shaped line, and each section corresponding to a respective region, and (ii) upon a user selecting a respective one of the sections, determining the corresponding item.

19.   (Currently Amended) A device for allowing a user to select one of a variable number of items, the device having:

a display area for displaying a <u>variable</u> number of regions<u>, each region corresponding to one of</u> ~~equal to~~ the number of items;

a data input means which registers a selection made by the user within a loop-shaped range; and

a processor for

(a)   defining a <u>variable number</u> ~~plurality~~ of subsets of said <u>variable number of</u> regions<u>, the variable number of subsets of regions being arranged along a continuous loop-shaped line</u>;

(b)   <u>dividing</u> ~~defining within~~ the <u>loop-shaped</u> range <u>into</u> a number of sections equal to the <u>variable</u> number of subsets, the arrangement of said sections <u>in the loop-shaped range</u> corresponding to the arrangement of the respective <u>variable number of</u> subsets of regions, whereby the user can select one of said <u>variable number of</u> subsets by selecting the respective one of said sections;

(c)   optionally, at least one step of:

(i)   defining a <u>variable number</u> ~~plurality~~ of subsets of said selected subset of regions; and

(ii)   <u>dividing the loop-shaped</u> ~~defining within the~~ range <u>into</u> a number of <u>selectable</u> sections equal to the <u>variable</u> number of subsets, the arrangement of said <u>selectable</u> sections corresponding to the arrangement of the respective <u>variable number</u> subsets of regions, whereby the user can select one of said <u>variable number of</u> subsets by selecting the respective one of said <u>variable number of</u> sections; and

(d)   dividing the loop-shaped defining within the range into a number of selectable sections equal to the variable number of items in the previously selected subset, the arrangement of said selectable sections corresponding to the arrangement of the respective regions representing the items, whereby the user can select one of said items by selecting the respective one of said sections.

20.   (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 18 or claim 19, in which the data input means is not adapted to display information.

21.   (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 18 or claim 19, in which the range is a range of circumferential locations within a loop-shaped contact-sensitive area.

22.   (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 21, in which the contact sensitive area encircles the display.

23.   (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 21, in which the data input means has a rest plane, is cantable out of the rest plane, and is sensitive to the direction in which it is canted, said range being a range of directions in which the data input means can be canted, whereby the user can make the selection within the range by contacting the data input means to cant the data input means in the corresponding direction.

24.   (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 18 or claim 19, which is an item of consumer electronics.

25.   (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 18 or claim 19, in which the display area is a low resolution screen.

26.   (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 18 or claim 19, which is a one-piece unit.

27.   (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 18 or claim 19, which is portable.

28.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product readable by a computer device which causes the computer device to perform a method according to claim 1 or claim 2.